DENVER & THE WEST

ALMOST HALF OF VIRUS DEATHS LINKED TO CARE FACILITIES

»2A

SPORTS

LODGE CASINO PARTNER OF VEGAS SPORTSBOOK »10A

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE DENVER POST

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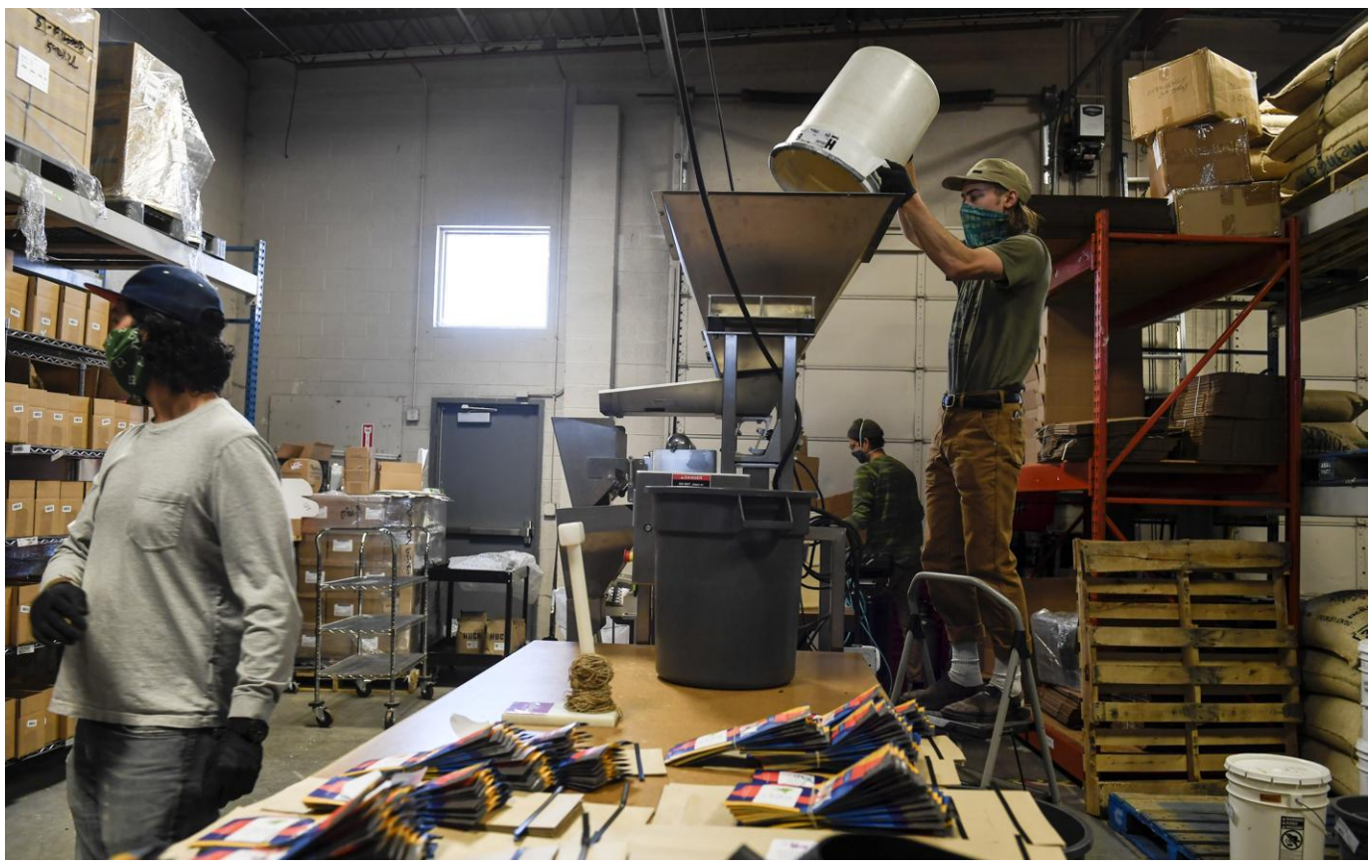
CORONAVIRUS

Get used to social distancing

Colorado small businesses release 4.4% of employees



Mike Tymoski pours coffee beans into a bagging sorter at Huckleberry Roasters in Denver on Tuesday. Huckleberry laid off 30 of its employees last month because of the coronavirus pandemic. *AAron Ontiveroz, The Denver Post*

Payroll-benefits company tracks the toll of COVID-19 on people's careers

By Joe Rubino
The Denver Post

So far, many of the numbers measuring the painful economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have been from a bird's-eye view.

The U.S. Department of Labor has reported that 16.8 million Americans applied for unemployment from March 15 to April 4. New numbers due Thursday morning will push those numbers higher, but already that three-week total represents about one in 10 U.S. workers. More than 127,000 of those people live in Colorado.

Last week, analysis released by online payroll and benefits platform company Gusto captured an early-stage snapshot of devastation playing out across some of the country's small businesses.

Using data from the company's payroll, benefits and human resources

JOBS » 4A

Coloradans should expect preventive measure for months to come, Polis says

By Sam Tabachnik, Alex Burness and Jessica Seaman
The Denver Post

Coloradans will have to get used to a new normal for many months to come, with the reopening of businesses and resumption of normal daily activities coming gradually, and some social distancing remaining in place until there is a cure or a vaccine, Gov. Jared Polis said Wednesday.

The remarks stood as the governor's most extensive comments yet on how Colorado will move forward from the global pandemic. Polis has set April 26 as a target date to lift the statewide stay-at-home order — an ambitious goal that's several days ahead of the federal target.

"The virus isn't going to disappear or go away any time soon," Polis said during a news conference. "We need a way of life that is sustainable — sustainable psychologically, economically and socially. We know that staying at home isn't. It's a horrific thing. ... We're social animals."

The governor outlined three phases for how decisions will be made on reopening society: Phase 1, which is ongoing, is the "urgent" phase. It involves mandating people stay indoors, which Polis himself has described as "draconian," with the goal of suppressing the virus' growth and expanding testing, tracing and health care capacity. The state is also using this time to conduct cost-benefit analysis of social distancing policies.

OUTBREAK » 4A

Gestapo comparison: State House Republican from Castle Rock equates governor's stay-at-home order with an authoritarian mentality. »4A

For six key days, China didn't warn the public about likely pandemic

By The Associated Press

In the six days after top Chinese officials secretly determined that they likely were facing a pandemic from a new coronavirus, the city of Wuhan at the epicenter of the disease hosted a mass banquet for tens of thousands of people. Millions began traveling through for Lunar New Year celebrations.

China's president, Xi Jinping, warned the public on the seventh day, Jan. 20. But by that time, more than 3,000 people had been infected during almost a week of public silence, according to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press and expert estimates based on retrospective infection data.

Six days. That delay

DELAY » 15A

COLORADO

"HAMILTON" TICKETS GOING ON SALE NEXT WEEK

DCPA executive director says tickets could be refunded if the Broadway show is canceled. »2A

NATION & WORLD

TRUMP FREEZES $500M FROM WHO

House Dems aide says they hope to keep sending funds to World Health Organization. »14A

Polis relying on engineers to track our movements

By David Migoya
The Denver Post

When Gov. Jared Polis on March 25 implored Coloradans to observe the stay-at-home order he had issued earlier that week, he let slip a tiny detail that's had privacy experts on edge ever since: The state was relying on cellphone tracking data to determine whether residents were complying.

"We're also looking at the different data that is available," Polis said during the news conference update. "Metadata, which means data through data partners that include things like people that are moving around with cellphones, and how much they are moving when people are pinged."

The aggregate data, Polis said, doesn't identify individuals and "is helping us analyze whether the steps Colorado has taken to facilitate social distancing are working and whether we are on track to meet our goals."

It immediately drew responses on Twitter, with allegations of

PHONES » 6A

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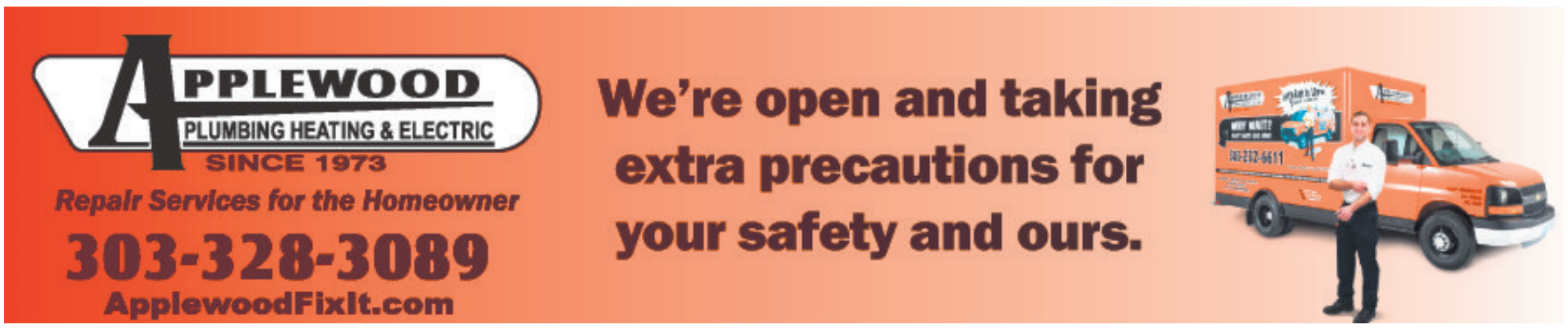
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